

May 15

2 Peter 3:16,17

**“But They are Wrong!
You Still Hold On.”**

¹⁶ As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are **some things** hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do **also** the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

17 Ye therefore, beloved,
seeing ye know **these**
things before, beware lest
ye also, being led away
with the error of the
wicked, fall from your own
steadfastness.

What are “these things”
and “some things” in this
passage? Reading prior
to verse 16 tells how
people were doubting
that there would ever
be an end to human

existence. They were saying: Where is the promise of the Messiah's coming? We've heard this from the beginning of creation.

Peter was explaining the end times. He was saying God wasn't "slack" but was actually very patient because He did not want anyone to be

eternally lost. In verse 10, Peter went on to say, “the day of the Lord” will come “as a thief in the night”, assuring 1) that set day will surely come, and 2) it will come when it is not expected to come, such as when people are spiritually asleep—too comfortable in life to be waiting for Messiah or watching

for signs of any
end-times prophecy.

Other characteristics of
this “day of the Lord” /
“the day of God” are as
follows:

- ▶ the heavens will pass
away accompanied by a
seriously loud noise,
- ▶ elements will melt from
severe heat,

► the earth itself and everything in it will be completely burned.

Those are the, “these things” to which Peter refers when he says, the “unlearned and unstable **wrest**”, meaning to *extract, wring, or squeeze out*.

In other words, these

people, or personality types, try to extract bits and pieces of these end-times prophecies to form beliefs (or even to discount them altogether). They try to, as with a wet cloth, wring or squeeze out, information. But because some of *these things* are “hard to be understood”, they come to wrong

conclusions—wrong
conclusions which lead
“to their own
destruction”.

Also, “these things”, in
verses 12-15, refer to
“new heavens and new
earth” and to the fact that
God’s longsuffering is for
the purpose of salvation.
It is so people have ample
opportunity to be saved.

It's not that God is
WEAK; it's that He is
WAITING. He's not
PLAYING around.

On the contrary God is
actually being extremely
PATIENT. God is not
MISSING what's
occurring. He is not
ignoring what is taking
place. God is just so
MERCIFUL.

Some people back then,
and even now, just did or
do not understand that.
Many do not even today.

Any one of us can
sometimes feel that since
God is not always fixing
bad situations for the
good and wiping out evil
immediately, He won't
ever do it. We may feel
justice is never coming.

We may at times think the world's end and all the prophesied promises will never occur. At times, some may feel as if God's "longsuffering" is His absence, lack of concern, inability to make things right or even is proof of his non-existence.

These are some of the

wrong conclusions that people reach when they try to squeeze out their own explanations, which ultimately lead to their, “own destruction”.

However, true Believers are to fully understand that we do not know God’s timing since “...one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a

thousand years as one day” (verse 8).

We are urged to hold on to the faith that the promises of God will be fulfilled. Scripture warns us to be careful, to “beware”, because we could become so deeply engrossed in the doubts and deceptions of others,

and end up being, “led away in the error of the wicked,” according to verse 17.

If we do allow ourselves to become enmeshed in other people’s doubts and deceptions, or the error of the wicked”, we too, could “fall” from our “own steadfastness”.

So, fellow Believer, even
when your insides are
screaming, “But they are
wrong!” You still hold on!